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Annual Report





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MISSION STATEMENT

The Jay Malina International Trade Consortium, as Miami-Dade County's official public/private partnership, advocates, promotes and supports the development of this County as the premier hemispheric platform for two-way trade with the rest of the world.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Carlos Alvarez
Mayor



Joe A. Martinez
Chairman



Dennis C. Moss
Vice-Chairman



Barbara J. Jordan
District 1



Dorrin D. Rolle
District 2



Audrey M. Edmonson
District 3



Sally A. Heyman
District 4



Bruno A. Barreiro
District 5



Rebeca Sosa
District 6



Carlos A. Gimenez
District 7



Katy Sorenson
District 8



Sen. Javier D. Souto
District 10



Jose "Pepe" Diaz
District 12



Natacha Seijas
District 13



George M. Burgess
County Manager



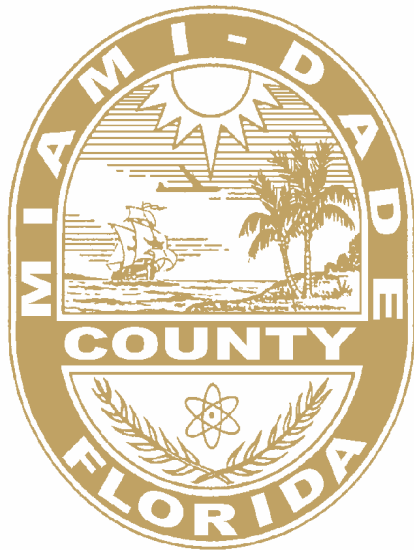
Harvey Ruvlin
Clerk of Courts



Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity
in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability.
"It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

INTRODUCTION



The Miami-Dade County ordinance creating the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium (ITC) (Section 4(h)), requires the ITC to submit an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners. This is the Agency's third report as the ITC since it was created on November 19, 2002. From January through April 2005 the ITC was in transition with the appointments of a new Chair and a new Executive Director. As per the requirements of the ordinance, this report outlines the full list of activities of the ITC from November 19, 2004 to November 18, 2005.

ITC BOARD MEMBERS
2004-2005

Hon. Jose “Pepe” Diaz
Miami-Dade County Commissioner,
ITC Chair
Appointee of the County Manager

Mr. Gilbert “Lee” Sandler
Vice Chair
Appointee of the Mayor

Mr. John Abisch
Representing Florida Custom
Brokers & Forwarders
Association

Mr. Juan Cento
Appointee of the ITC Chair

Mr. William Alexander
Representing CAMACOL

Ms. Jacqueline del Cristo
Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Twelve

Mr. Miguel Amion
Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Nine

Mr. Rafael J. Diaz- Balart
Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Six

Mr. William Anderson
Representing the Greater Miami
Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Maurice A. Ferre
Appointee of the Mayor

Mr. Jose Luis Castillo
Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Eleven

Mr. George Foyo
Appointee of the ITC Chair

ITC BOARD MEMBERS
2004-2005

Mr. Juvenal Piña
**Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Five**

Mr. Pete Pizarro
Appointee of the ITC Chair

Mr. Gene Prescott
Appointee of the ITC Chair

Mr. Alexander Reus
**Representing the Greater Miami
Chamber of Commerce**

Chief Sandrell Rivers
**Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District One**

Vacant
**Representative from the City of
Miami International Trade Board**

Mr. Alex Gonzalez
**Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Thirteen**

Mr. Willie Gort
**Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Ten**

Mr. Alfredo Hidalgo-Gato
Appointee of the Mayor

Mr. Marlon Hill
Appointee of the Mayor

Ms. Janá Sigars-Malina
**Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Seven**

Mr. Miguel Southwell
**Representing Miami International
Airport**

Mr. Roberto Torricella
Appointee of the Mayor

Mr. Sang Whang
**Representing Miami-Dade
Chamber of Commerce**

Mr. Dwayne A. Wynn
**Representing Mayor's African
Trade Task Force**

Mr. Rick Zelman, Esq.
**Representing Florida International
Bankers Association**

Mr. Burton Landy
Representing the Beacon Council

Mr. German Leiva
**Representing District Export Council of
Florida**

Mr. Walter Loy
**Representing Miami-Dade Sister
Cities Coordinating Council**

Mr. Fernando Melo
Representing World Trade Center Miami

**ITC BOARD MEMBERS
2004-2005**

Hon. Carmenza Jaramillo de Maincourt
Dean of the Consular Corps

Mr. Bill Johnson
Appointee of the County Manager

Ms. Jill Klaskin-Press
**Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Four**

Mr. Juan Kuryla
Representing the Port of Miami

Mr. Juvenal Piña
**Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Five**

Mr. Pete Pizarro
Appointee of the ITC Chair

Mr. Gene Prescott
Appointee of the ITC Chair

Mr. Alexander Reus
**Representing the Greater Miami
Chamber of Commerce**

Chief Sandrell Rivers
**Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District One**

Vacant
**Representative from the City of
Miami International Trade Board**

Mr. Manny Mencía
Representing Enterprise Florida

Mr. Harold “Ed” Patricoff
Appointee of the ITC Chair

Mr. J. David Pena
**Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Eight**

Mr. Jose Perez Jones
Appointee of the ITC Chair

Ms. Janá Sigars-Malina
**Representing the Board of
County Commissioners,
District Seven**

Mr. Miguel Southwell
**Representing Miami International
Airport**

Mr. Roberto Torricella
Appointee of the Mayor

Mr. Sang Whang
**Representing Miami-Dade
Chamber of Commerce**

Mr. Dwayne A. Wynn
**Representing Mayor’s African
Trade Task Force**

Mr. Rick Zelman, Esq.
**Representing Florida International
Bankers Association**

ITC STAFF MEMBERS
2004-2005

Mr. Manuel J. Gonzalez
Executive Director

Desmond Alufohai
Trade Development Specialist

Vacant
Assistant to the Director

Raymond Bush
Caribbean Trade Initiative Program

Ana Gonzalez
Senior Executive Secretary

Cornelius Herelle
Senior Trade Development Specialist

Annette Molina
Marketing Specialist

Jimmy Nares
Chief of Finance and Administration

Mayda Rescendi
Sister Cities Program Assistant

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Committees

Committee on Advocacy. Rick Zelman, Chair. Committee responsible for recommending policies that affect trade issues in Miami-Dade.

Committee on Marketing. Chief Sandrell Rivers, Chair. Committee responsible for the marketing and promotion of the ITC as well as developing an effective web-based calendar highlighting ITC activities.

Strategic Planning Committee. Jacqueline Del Cristo, Co-Chair, Rafael Diaz-Balart, Co-Chair, Jana Sigars Malina, Co-Chair. Committee responsible for developing the strategic/business plan for the ITC.

Committee on Trade Missions. J. David Peña, Chair. Committee responsible for setting mission priorities for the ITC. This committee identifies the best areas and countries to which the ITC should take missions, and from which to receive missions. The Committee also makes recommendations on the allocation of ITC funding for both incoming and outgoing third-party missions.

Committee Meetings

In an effort to be more effective, the ITC committees meet on a regular basis to discuss key issues and to provide important input on ITC policies. Below is a list of the meeting dates.

ITC COMMITTEE	MEETING DATES
Advocacy	February 15, 2005
Marketing	January 13, 2005; March 28, 2005; September 14, 2005
Strategic Planning Committee	September 16, 2005
Trade Missions	December 14, 2004; April 8, 2005

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Board Meetings

In the last years, the ITC held a total of (3) Board of Directors Meetings. The Board Retreat was held on September 23, 2005 at the Doral Country Club in Doral, FL. The retreat was held to establish the program priorities for the ITC, and to introduce new Board Members and staff.

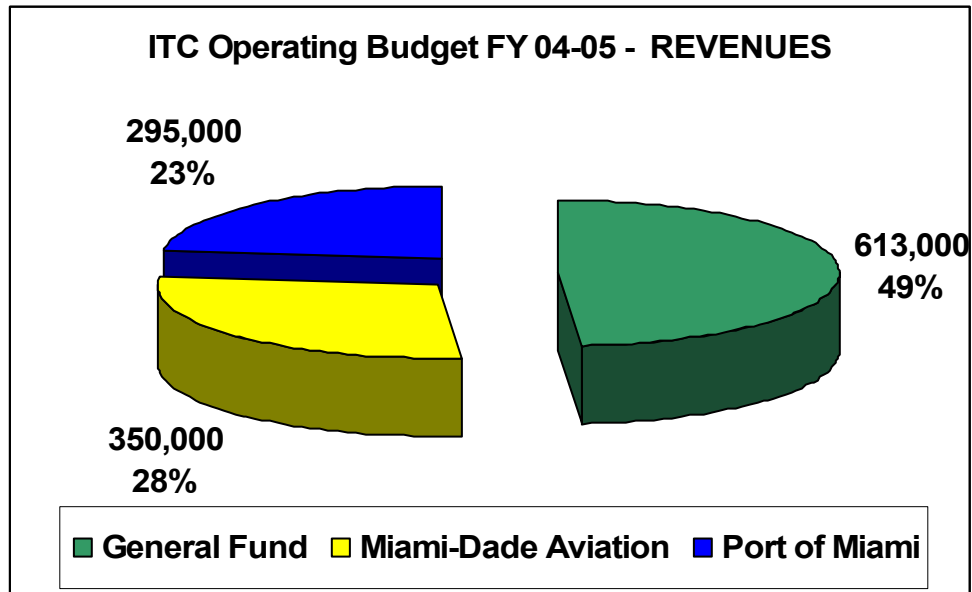
ITC BOARD MEETINGS FY Nov. 2004 – Nov. 2005	
ITC Board Meeting	January 25, 2005
ITC Board Meeting	April 14, 2005
ITC Board Meeting/Retreat	September 23, 2005

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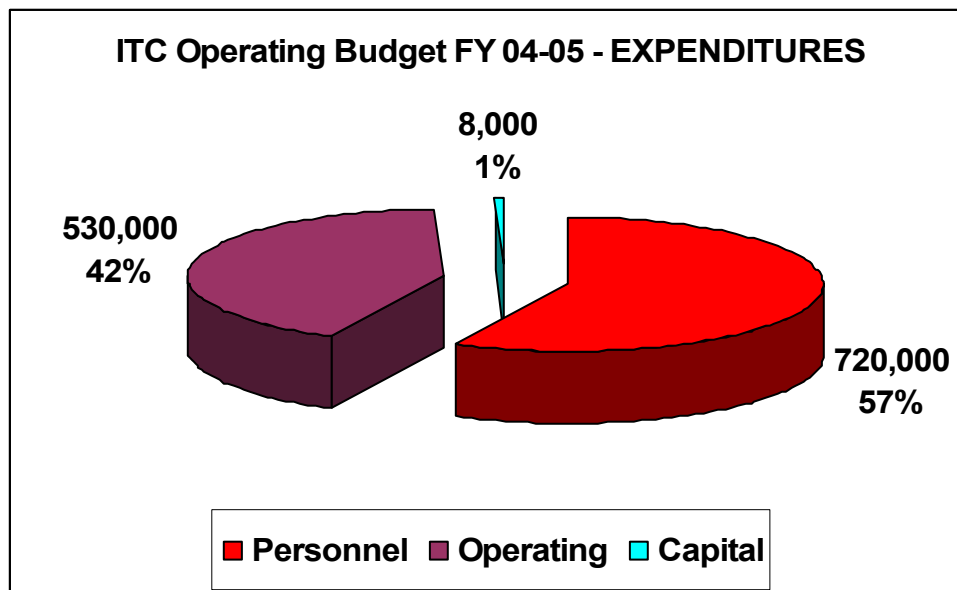
ITC OPERATING BUDGET – FY 04-05

In September 2004, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners approved the ITC's FY 04-05 departmental operating budget totaling **\$1,258,000**.

Funding sources for budgeted revenues include:



Allocations for budgeted expenditures include:



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Business Development Mission to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Tianjin, Shanghai, & Hong Kong, China March 7 – 19, 2005

Miami-Dade County Commissioner and the Chair of the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium, (ITC), the Hon. Jose “Pepe” Diaz headed a business delegation mission to Asia from March 7-19, 2005. A total of twenty (20) private and public sector individuals participated in this mission and visited the cities of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia; and Tianjin, Shanghai, & Hong Kong in China. Representatives from the Port of Miami and Miami International Airport joined the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium in the Mission as well as representatives from Miami-Dade’s business community. The Mission also served to support the Airport’s route development efforts in parts of Asia.

The main goals of the Mission were to: 1. afford Miami-Dade County businesses the opportunity to meet with their counterparts in match-making appointments; 2. to promote Miami-Dade County as an air-cargo destination center for the Americas; and 3. to promote Miami-Dade as the Gateway to the Americas.

By all accounts, the Mission was a success. The Mission was taken to four cities: Tianjin and Shanghai in Mainland China, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Tianjin

Tianjin is China’s third largest city, with a population of 9.5 million people. It is a major commercial and industrial center as well as the biggest port and largest free trade zone in north China with a reported U.S. trade of \$1.5 billion in just the first quarter of the year.

According to Vice Mayor Zhi of the city of Tianjin, although the U.S. is not Tianjin’s principal investor, the U.S. multinational corporations provide 50% of the profits of Tianjin companies. In 2004, Tianjin’s exports to the U.S. totaled \$8.5 billion while the imports from the U.S. accounted for \$1.7 billion. For the Miami-Dade delegation it was a prime opportunity to establish new business relationships and showcase Miami-Dade County as the “Gateway to the Americas,” for Tianjin products.

The Miami-Dade delegation met with the Council of Foreign Economic and Trade Relations of the Tianjin Municipal People’s Government. An economic and exchange cooperative agreement was signed by Commissioner Diaz and the Vice Mayor from the Tianjin Municipal People’s Government.

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This agreement establishes greater cooperation for future trade and investment between the city of Tianjin and Miami-Dade County. Business matchmaking sessions, two economic forums as well as several social events were held in honor of the delegation.

Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Diaz participated in a ceremony establishing a new hospitality school in China. This is a joint venture between Florida International University Hospitality School of Management and the Tianjin University of Commerce. Tianjin is the largest industrial area in China, which has hosted more than 100 of the Fortune-500 companies in the world. In the past 20 years, many large companies have opened offices in Tianjin, such as Motorola, Coca Cola, Toyota, etc.

Tianjin is a growing city that offers many business opportunities; for example, a major U.S. studio is planning to open an amusement theme park in Tianjin. In a tour of the Port of Tianjin, port officials expressed to the Miami-Dade delegation their plans to expand the port’s capacity to incorporate the cruising industry. Representatives from the Tianjin Economic Association (TEDA-free zone) conveyed in their discussions to the delegation, their interest in establishing a working relationship with the Miami Free Zone. Tianjin’s Ministry of Commerce has already given approval to open in the U.S. a trade and industrial park in Greenville, South Carolina.

Shortly after the Miami-Dade County delegation returned from this last mission to Asia, the authorities from the Tianjin Economic and Development Authority (TEDA) announced that a delegation from TEDA would be visiting Miami-Dade in mid-April. The authorities in Tianjin have indicated interest in utilizing Miami-Dade County as the Gateway to the Americas.

Shanghai

Shanghai, China’s largest city in population, is also known as the “world’s factory” and the center of commerce for mainland China.

The delegation conducted meetings with real estate developers who were interested in investing in the Miami-Dade area. Representatives from China Air airlines also met with members of the delegation to explore the future possibilities of establishing an air cargo route to Miami International Airport.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The mission continued on to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce in Kuala Lumpur (AmCham) held an in-country briefing to introduce mission participants to the business climate and opportunities in Malaysia.

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The Miami-Dade Delegation held a business seminar called “Miami Gateway of the Americas” for over 80 Malaysian companies. This seminar was coordinated by the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE). Business matchmaking sessions took place after the seminar, followed by a networking reception where members of the delegation held one-on-one meetings with Malaysian Businesses. The delegation also met with officials of the city of Kuala Lumpur. The Multimedia Development Corporation (Multimedia Super Corridor) hosted the group at their offices just outside the city of Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) also provided good business leads for members of the delegation.

Trade between Miami-Dade County and Malaysia increased in 2004 by almost 16% for a total trade value of \$170 million. The main exports to Malaysia which increased by 24% to \$25.14 million were aircrafts/helicopters parts, equipment for telecommunications, used/rebuilt helicopters, computers parts, and communication transmission systems. The imports from Malaysia increased more moderately by 14% during the year mainly consisting of microprocessors, cellular radiotelephones, computer hardware, transmission equipments and video cameras.

The business mission to Malaysia helped to develop potential relationships with several Malaysian companies. One in particular, is considering establishing its mopeds and scooters business at the Miami Free Zone where they could easily distribute their products throughout the U.S. and Latin America. In addition, the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) is discussing opening a Malaysian trade office in South Florida. MATRADE’s only other office in the U.S. is located in New York.

Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, the delegation started the mission with an in-country briefing by the US Commercial Service. The briefing served to educate mission participants, especially members of the private sector, of the requirements for doing business in and through Hong Kong. Delegates visited the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) where they had a chance to both learn about business in Hong Kong, and to tour some of the facilities of the HKTDC. The HKTDC has been very helpful and involved with all ITC missions to Hong Kong. The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (HKGCC) provided matchmaking opportunities for the group.

Miami-Dade Assistant County Manager, Bill Johnson and Ernesto Rodriguez of the Marketing Department of Miami International Airport met with officials of a major Asian airline to discuss the possibilities of direct air service between Hong Kong and Miami-Dade County. Mr. Johnson also held separate talks with both airline and airport officials in Hong Kong and was given an extensive tour of the operations and witness a behind the scenes look of Hong Kong’s International Airport including major cargo areas. Hong Kong has the longest and one of the most modern airports in the world.

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Business Development Mission from the Gateway of the Americas™ to the East African Gateway KENYA & UGANDA April 2 -10, 2005

Twelve [12] distinguished individuals representing both the private and public sectors visited Kenya and Uganda from April 3 - 9, 2005, on a historic business development mission. The objectives of the business development mission dubbed “Mission from the Gateway of the Americas™ to the East African Gateway” were:

- To continue talks about air-route development between Miami International Airport and East Africa
- Increase business and investment opportunities between the two regional gateways
- Encourage Kenya Ministry of Tourism to establish a trade/tourism office in Miami-Dade County

During the first leg of the mission in Nairobi, Kenya, [April 3 - 7, 2005], our delegation met with some government dignitaries and visited many organizations, including:

- ▶ In-Country briefing by Edward Yagi, Commercial Counselor, Embassy of the United States
- ▶ Export Processing Zones Authority, Athi River
- ▶ Hon. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, M.P., Minister of Trade and Industry
- ▶ Hon. Dr. Chris Murungaru, M.P., Minister for Transport
- ▶ Hon. Morris Dzero, M.P., Minister for Tourism and Information
- ▶ Mr. George Muhoho, Managing Director Kenya Airports Authority
- ▶ Mr. David Githere, President Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ▶ Press Conference with the print media

More than 100 persons attended the one-to-one business meeting and seminar held at the Grand Regency Hotel. The following topics were also presented:

The “Twin Ports:” Miami-Dade County Economic Engine: Miguel Southwell & Khalid Salahuddin

Business Opportunities in South Florida - Bryant Salter & Desmond Alufohai

Kenya Tourism Board - Tourism in Kenya: Jennifer Opondo

Investment Opportunities in Kenya - Export Promotion Council: Mrs. L. W. Waithaka

Presenting the Export Processing Zones Authority of Kenya: Ms. Evelyn C. Noah

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The Ministry of Trade and Industry hosted a business luncheon for our delegation at the Grand Regency Hotel. Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Kenya Tourism Board hosted our farewell dinner at the exotic Carnivore Restaurant.

The East African Community [EAC] is the regional intergovernmental organization of the Republics of Kenya [30m], Uganda [26m] and Tanzania [32m], with its headquarters located in Arusha, Tanzania.

The East African Heads of State signed the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community in Arusha on November, 30 1999. The EAC has an estimated population of 89 million, including Zanzibar [1m].

The United States business investments in Kenya is estimated to be more than \$285 million, primarily in commerce, light manufacturing, and the tourism industry. In 2003, the United States exports to Kenya were valued at \$196.5 million and imports were valued at \$249.3 million. Total trade value between Miami-Dade County and Kenya increased by 15% in 2003 to \$13 million. Exports to Kenya from Miami-Dade County were valued at \$4.3 million and imports were \$8.7 million. Kenya ranks 88th among Miami-Dade County's trade partners.

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Business Development Mission to the Turks & Caicos Islands June 8-15, 2005

One of the many roles of Miami-Dade County government is to develop new relationships and reinforce existing bonds with other countries, especially those in South America and the Caribbean. Acting on that mandate, Commissioner, Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler led a Business Development Mission to The Turks & Caicos Islands from June 8th to 12th, 2005. A total of twenty-seven (27) public and private sector individuals participated in this mission.

The Turks and Caicos Islands has been a good market for U.S. products and a superb place to invest.

The main focus of the Mission was to afford Miami-Dade County businesses the opportunity to meet with their counterparts in the Turks & Caicos thereby enabling both sides to conduct mutually beneficial business.

By all accounts, the Mission was a success. The Mission was welcomed with a reception sponsored and hosted by the Chief Minister of the Turks & Caicos, Mr. Michael Misick.

On the first full day of the mission, Prime Minister of the Turks & Caicos, Mr. Michael Misick together with other Ministers, and officials from the Turks and Caicos officially welcomed the Miami-Dade County Commissioner, Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler and the Miami-Dade delegation to the Turks & Caicos and declared the Mission open.

The Miami-Dade Delegation attended briefings with several organizations including the chambers of commerce, real estate agencies, and business organizations and individuals. There were also numerous match-making and one-on-one business opportunities. In their End of Mission Report, several members of the delegation said they were very excited with the quality and quantity of business appointments.

This was the first official business delegation from Miami-Dade County to the Turks & Caicos Islands since the signing of the Sister Cities agreement between the two communities.

Since the Mission's return, some members of the delegation have returned to the Turks & Caicos to continue their business development efforts, and some of their Turks & Caicos business counterparts have visited them in Miami-Dade to continue working on their businesses.

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ITC CERTIFIED THIRD PARTY MISSIONS

Outgoing:

ORGANIZATION	MISSION DESTINATION	MISSION DATES
Florida Foreign Trade Association	Hong Kong	November 13-19, 2004
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce	Brazil	May 2-6, 2005
CAMACOL	Costa Rica	August 16-19, 2005
Colombian American Chamber of Commerce	Pereira	August 9-12, 2005

Incoming:

ORGANIZATION	MISSION SOURCE	MISSION DATES
Colombian American Chamber of Commerce	Colombia	January 18-22, 2005
Dominican American Chamber of Commerce	Dominican Republic	27-Apr-05
Florida Foreign Trade Association	Dominican Republic	April 10-14, 2005
RiversNet	Nigeria	July 12-13, 2005
Italy American Chamber of Commerce	Asti, Italy	June 6-13, 2005
Colombian American Chamber of Commerce	Pereira	September, 2005

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ITC's Projects and Activities:

Outreach:

The ITC organized and conducted a Chile/U.S. Free Trade Agreement: First Year Analysis Forum in conjunction with Florida International University and ProChile. The invited speakers were the Trade Commissioner from Chile and a Program Manager from the Traderoots program at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The ITC invited all the Trade Commissioners to a Database Workshop held at MiamiDade College and at the Stephen P. Clark Building. The workshop was conducted by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chair of the ITC, who hosted an appreciation reception for the members of the Consular Corps and the Trade Commissioners at the Miami-Dade College.

The ITC conducted a Special Workshop for the Foreign Trade Commissioners at Miami International Airport where they were informed of the services available through the airport and were told that the ITC will be able to make arrangements for visiting delegations.

The ITC was instrumental in helping to establish a Brazilian Distribution Center in Miami. APEX-Brasil (Agencia de Promocao e Exportacoes do Brasil) opened their first distribution center at the Miami Free Zone. The ITC participated and sponsored the event.

Trade Numbers

In conjunction with WorldCity, the ITC annually underwrites the publication of "Miami Trade Numbers". The publication present in a user friendly form, information highlighting Miami-Dade's top trading partners, and provides information on goods imported into and, goods exported out of Miami-Dade County. This publication is recognized throughout the hemisphere as one of the most important statistical guides of its kind, and is referred to frequently by scholars and members of the international community.

Database – Outreach:

Processed a bid waiver to enter into an agreement with current Database Consultant (Indigo Key) to update and expand database. The update enhanced business matchmaking capabilities made trade missions more effective.

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Conferences and Trade Shows:

Sponsored and participated in the Caribbean Latin American Action's (CCAA) 28th Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin.

Miami-Dade County through the ITC, participated, sponsored and co-hosted the Negotiations of the US-Andean Free Trade Agreement which took place at the Intercontinental Hotel in Miami.

Participated in the Peru/Expo 2004 tradeshow in conjunction with the Port of Miami.

Sponsored and participated in the Americas Linkage Conference by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

Sponsored and participated in the XXVI Hemispheric Congress of Latin Chambers (CAMACOL). Occupied exhibit space and manned a booth to disseminate information about the ITC and Miami-Dade County.

Sponsored and participated in the Ninth Symposium of the Americas, Customs/Trade/Finance.

The ITC sponsored and participated in the 8th Annual Africando Trade and Investment Symposium.

Other Sponsorships:

Sponsored and participated in the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau Annual Meeting.

Sponsored and participated in Team Florida Welcome Reception for the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACLA) Outlook on the Americas Conference.

Sponsored and participated in the Third Annual Beacon Awards dinner where the Jay Malina Award was presented.

Sponsored and participated in the World Trade Center Miami's 2005 State of the Port Luncheon.

Sponsored and participated in the Free Trade with Central America & Dominican Republic seminar.

Sponsored and participated in the World Trade Center Miami's Florida International Achievement Award 2005.

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Sponsored and participated in the Florida Foreign Trade Association Award & Business Luncheon.

Sponsored and participated in the US-China Business Forum held at the Miami Free Zone and hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Trade Roots program, World Trade Center, ITC and FedEx Corporation.

Sponsored and participated in the Asian Business Conference & Networking Reception.

Other Outreach Activities:

Staffed and supported the Inter American Conference of Mayors in June 2005 and assisted with the coordination of the event's activities.

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Miami-Dade Sister Cities Program

Mission Statement

“The mission of our Sister Cities Program is to create and strengthen partnerships between the County and international communities through increased global cooperation and understanding at the municipal level, and to further the goals of the Sister Cities International (SCI).”



Sister Cities is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network creating and strengthening partnerships between U.S. and international communities in an effort to increase global cooperation at the municipal level, to promote cultural understanding and to stimulate economic development. SCI leads the movement for local community development and volunteer action by motivating and empowering private citizens, municipal officials, and business leaders to conduct long-term programs of mutual benefit.

Sister Cities Coordinating Council

The Sister Cities Coordinating Council consists of citizen volunteers who meet on the third Thursday of every other month. Through the efforts of our [Coordinating Council](#), and our members, we work together to promote international trade and commerce, to develop intercultural understanding, and to promote tourism and economic development. Our program also serves to enrich the quality of life of the residents of Miami-Dade County. Currently the Council has the following vacancies: Commonwealth of the Bahamas; Lamentin, Guadeloupe; Mendoza, Argentina; Monagas, Venezuela; Petit Guave, Haiti; Pucallpa, Peru; St. Kitts & Nevis Islands; Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Turks & Caicos Islands and Veracruz, Mexico.

Coordinating Council Meeting Dates
January 13, 2005
March 24, 2005
May 19, 2005
August 4, 2005
September 29, 2005

Sister Cities Committees

- Scholarship Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Incoming Mission from Pereira, Colombia
- Incoming Mission from Asti, Italy
- Protocol Committee
- Arts Committee – Miami Dade College

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Sister Cities Coordinating Council

Mr. Walter A. Loy
Dean & Chair
Cayman Islands, B.W.I.

Ms. Shelly Smith-Fano
Vice Chair
Asuncion, Paraguay

Asti, Italy
Ms. Emma Tibaldeo

Pucallpa, Peru
Vacant

Commonwealth of the Bahamas
Vacant

San Jose, Costa Rica
Ms. Norma Amaro

Iquique, Chile
Dr. Allan Rosenbaum

St. Kitts & Nevis Islands
Vacant

Kingston, Jamaica
Ms. Laurice Hunter-Scott

Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Vacant

Lamentin, Guadeloupe
Vacant

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Mr. Roddy E. Gomez

Maldonado, Uruguay
Mr. Hugo Castro

Sao Paulo, Brazil
Mr. Luis Lopez

Mendoza, Argentina
Vacant

Stockholm, Sweden
Ms. Eva Swift

Monagas, Venezuela
Vacant

Taipei, Taiwan
Dr. April Burriss

Pereira, Colombia
Mr. Ricardo Tribin

Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain
Ms. Silvia Unzueta

Petit Guave, Haiti
Vacant

Turks & Caicos Islands
Vacant

Veracruz, Mexico
Vacant

REPORT

At Large Members

Mr. Jack Elmore Ms. Malou Harrison

Honorary Members

Dr. Billy K. Yeh Mr. Lynden James Mr. Manuel J. Gonzalez

Miami-Dade County Sister Cities Program 2004-2005 Projects

January 18-22, 2005 – Delegation from Pereira, Colombia

A delegation of government officials and businessmen headed by Hon. Juan M. Arango Velez, Mayor from the city of Pereira, Colombia visited Miami-Dade County to establish closer cultural and commercial ties with Miami-Dade. The delegation met with local businessmen to discuss business opportunities and two-way trade and with elected officials such as State Representative Juan Zapata and Commissioner Joe Martinez, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. They also visited the Miami Free Zone, The Port of Miami, Miami International Airport, Jackson Memorial Hospital and Miami's Redevelopment district.

June 6-13, 2005 – Delegation from Asti, Italy

In celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Sister Cities relationship between Miami-Dade County and the Province of Asti in Italy, Miami-Dade County hosted a delegation led by the president of the Asti province, Dr. Roberto Marmo. The Italian delegation received an official welcome by the Hon. Joe Martinez, Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners as well as by Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chair of the ITC, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, Commissioner Carlos Gimenez and County Manager George Burgess. There were two days of business matchmaking sessions. Delegates participating were from an array of profession such as wine producers, restaurant owners, artisan candy makers, tourism officials, tour operators and culinary school staff from Academia de la Cucina Italiana. A closing reception was offered by Ambassador Gianfranco Colognato, Consul General of Italy at the Consulate to commemorate the anniversary.

REPORT

September 16- October 16, 2005 – Third Annual Miami-Dade Celebrates the Art of its Sister Cities

The Miami-Dade County Sister Cities Program Coordinating Council in collaboration with the Miami Dade College hosted the “Third Annual Miami-Dade Celebrates the Art of its Sister Cities”. This international exhibit was comprised of over 37 works of art from artist representing the Sister Cities’ member countries: Italy, Paraguay, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Chile, Jamaica, Guadalupe, Uruguay, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Haiti, Peru, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Sweden, Taiwan, Canary Islands of Spain, Turks and Caicos, and Mexico. The art show and sale exhibit was displayed at the Miami Dade College Tower Theater where several educational seminars took place and a souvenir magazine was widely distributed. Five pieces of art were donated for a drawing held at the closing ceremony. During the ceremony a \$1,000 matching scholarship check was awarded to a Miami Dade College student for academic achievement. Net proceeds from the art sale, sponsorships and drawings went to benefit the Student Exchange Scholarship Program.

Prior to the art exhibit, Miami-Dade County Sister Cities’ program organized a “Young Artist Competition” where a student competition was held to develop the official poster. A student from Homestead High School was selected and the official poster of the art exhibit was unveiled at the “Meet the Artist” reception.

